

Alumni Columns

Magazine

Spring 2004

Northwestern State University of Louisiana



NSU Alumni
share their
love for food

TUNK'S
CYPRESS INN



Dr. Randall J. Webb, '65, '66
President
Northwestern State University

Dear Alumni:

I hope that the new year is off to a good start for each of you. So far, 2004 has been an exciting year at Northwestern. The university set another enrollment record in the spring semester and interest among prospective students is high. Attendance at our recent recruiting event for students who will graduate in 2005 increased by 35 percent, which is a positive sign that these students are aware of what is available for them at NSU.

In addition to developing strong academic programs, Northwestern has an obligation to reach out to surrounding communities to assist in economic development and improve the quality of life.

The Small Business Development Center at Northwestern works closely with businesspeople and entrepreneurs in several area parishes to develop business plans and obtain needed capital to start businesses and help them grow. Last year, the SBDC assisted entrepreneurs and small businesses in Central Louisiana in securing more than \$22 million in capitalization. The Center also played a role in a recent Rural Economic Development conference which brought several hundred elected officials along with chamber of commerce and business representatives to NSU.

Northwestern strives to work with area teachers and school systems. The university encourages its faculty to pass along their expertise to elementary and secondary teachers. Through its affiliation with the Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program, math and science teachers have learned innovative methods to reach their students more effectively.

The university also recently learned it has been selected as a host for the National Writing Project, a network of university-school collaborations designed to improve student achievement by working with teachers at all grade levels and all disciplines.

Northwestern is also using its expertise to help capable high school students get an early start on their college education. The STEP UP Program gives qualified high school students the opportunity to take NSU classes at their high school during the school day. Last fall, 85 students around Louisiana earned credit at NSU through this program. The Space Science Group has developed a popular CD to help students improve scores on the LEAP Test.

Your university is working hard each day to improve the lives of all the people it serves.

Dr. Chris Maggio, '85, '91
Director Alumni and Development



Fellow Alumni and Friends:

In reviewing the career profession list of NSU alumni, I have realized that Northwestern graduates are involved in almost every aspect of our daily lives. Naturally, having been established as a "teachers' college", we might immediately think of the many educators that NSU has produced. Of course, we have alumni working at all levels of education, pre-K through higher education, and our alumni have made a tremendous impact in this field.

But, as I communicate with many NSU alumni, I am continually impressed with the diversity of professions of our alumni family. Think about your former classmates and the jobs that they hold. Our alumni work in the fields of accounting, administration, banking, construction, criminal justice, investments, aviation, business, computers, communications, medical/health related, education, engineering, entertainment, legal, insurance, journalism, marketing, military, ministry, nursing, research, sales, social work, travel and many others.

In this issue we highlight a few of our graduates in the restaurant industry. In Louisiana, it is often said that if we are not eating a meal, we are planning our next one. I hope that you enjoy a closer insight to a few NSU alumni that have made a name for themselves in this field.

Of course, when many of our alumni read this article and think of their classmates then there is one other career goal that many of our graduates can now claim, and one that many of us aspire, and that is RETIREMENT...

Alumni Columns
Official Publication of
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana
Organized in 1884
A member of CASE

Volume IX Number 1 Spring 2004
The Alumni Columns (USPS 015480) is published
4 times a year by Northwestern State University,
Natchitoches, Louisiana, 71497-0002
Periodicals Postage Paid at Natchitoches, La.,
and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the
Alumni Columns Northwestern State University,
Natchitoches, La. 71497-0002.
Alumni Office Phone: 318-357-4414
and 888-799-6486
FAX: 318-357-4225
Email: alumni@nsula.edu

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Vice President.....Jimmy Williams
Winnfield, 1993
Secretary-Treasurer.....Mike Sawrie
Alexandria, 1972
Executive Director.....Dr. Chris Maggio
Natchitoches, 1985, 1991

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The Alumni Columns is published in
spring, summer, fall and winter.

Publisher

Dr. Chris Maggio, 1985, 1991

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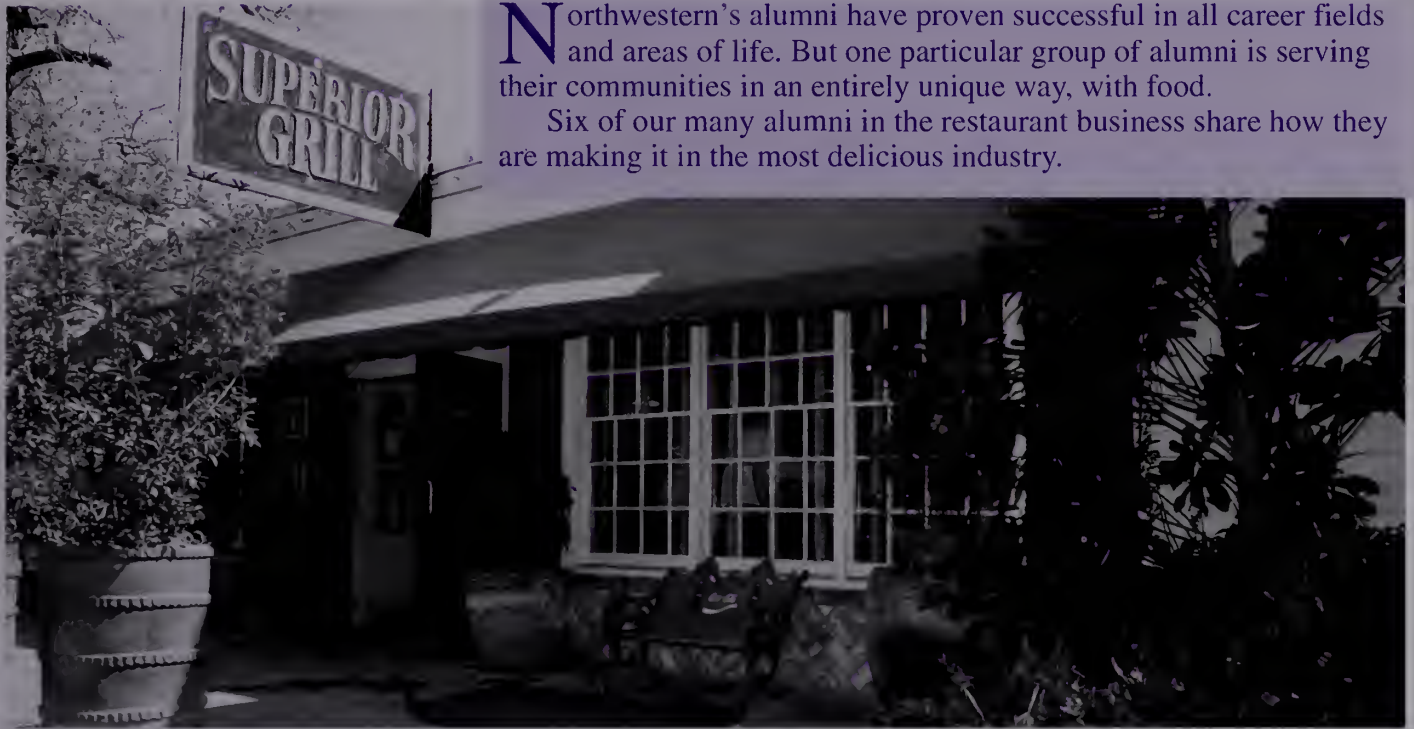
Beth Mann, 1975

NSU Press Publications Office

Northwestern State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, Specialist and Doctorate degrees.

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NSU Alumni share their love for food



Northwestern's alumni have proven successful in all career fields and areas of life. But one particular group of alumni is serving their communities in an entirely unique way, with food.

Six of our many alumni in the restaurant business share how they are making it in the most delicious industry.

Superior Bar and Grill and Superior Steakhouse

College buddies and former roommates **Phil Barbaree** and **Bobby Kirchoff** have formed a successful chain in the South. They opened their first restaurant, Superior Bar and Grill, in 1983 in Shreveport. They opened subsequent restaurants in Baton Rouge in 1991, in Birmingham in 1995 and finally in New Orleans in 1998. Just last year Superior Steakhouse was opened, also in Shreveport.

Barbaree and Kirchoff's friendship, which began while in college, has certainly paid off. These fraternity brothers have had other businesses together but find that the relationships they built in college have helped make their restaurants successful.

"Northwestern played a big part in our success because of the contacts we made," said Barbaree, a 1976 graduate and member of the NSU President's Council. "The people you have around you in college are important. They stay with you."

"It's the friendship and people you meet at NSU that make a difference," said Kirchoff, also a member of the NSU President's Council and 1977 graduate. "Because of our business, we are able to maintain contact with Northwestern and its alumni. I am proud of Northwestern and all it has accomplished. The university has played a big role in the success we have had."

You can find out more about each of the Superior restaurants at www.superiorbarandgrill.com.



Superior Bar & Grill owners Phil Barbaree ('76) and Bobby Kirchoff ('77)

Chocolate Molten Soufflé from Superior Bar and Grill

- 3 C granulated sugar
- 16 large eggs
- 2 lbs. semi-sweet chocolate
- 2 1/2 sticks unsalted butter (softened)
- 3 C all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 350°.

Melt chocolate over a double boiler and gradually add butter while stirring. Whip sugar and eggs in a mixing bowl until ribbon-like stage. Slowly add chocolate while continuing to mix on low. Slowly fold in flour on low mixing speed. Pour into buttered soufflé dishes or parchment-lined spring form pans. Place in oven 11-12 minutes. Serves approximately 12.



Lasyone's

No one thinks of Natchitoches food without remembering mouthwatering meatpies from Lasyone's. **Angela Lasyone**, a 1986 graduate, began working in the family business with her father in 1994.

"I always liked to cook, but our whole family does it all," said Lasyone. "We do the ordering, cooking and management. When I became involved with the business, I moved it from old school to new by adding more menu selections and using a computer system."

Some things took a while to change. The restaurant starting taking credit cards just two years ago. They also have catering services to the local industries and added a banquet room.

Despite the new changes, Lasyone's still has a small-town, family atmosphere in which you can eat breakfast, lunch or an early dinner.

The restaurant has gained much publicity and has been written about in *Southern Living*, *Gourmet*, *The New York Times* and the *Dallas Morning News*. It has also been featured on Home and Garden Channel and "The Today Show". It was even the setting for a Harlequin Romance Novel, "Jodie's Little Secrets" by Joanna Wayne.

Many of Lasyone's patrons, however, heard of the restaurant from friends.

"You can spend a lot of money on advertising, but word of mouth is the best," said Lasyone. "One thing I learned from NSU is where to put money and where not to put it. It was there that I also learned about dealing with people and organization planning."

If you are craving a taste of your days in Natchitoches, you can order meatpies online at www.lasyones.com. They have shipped everywhere in the U.S.

Lasyone's Red Beans and Sausage

1 16 ounce dry red kidney beans
 1/2 cup vegetable oil or bacon drippings
 1/2 teaspoon parsley flakes
 10 cups water
 2 teaspoons sugar
 2 teaspoons salt
 2 teaspoons seasoned salt
 1/4 teaspoon red pepper
 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
 1 medium-sized green bell pepper,
 chopped
 2 stalks celery, chopped
 1 cup chopped smoked sausage

Combine beans, oil or bacon dripping, parsley, water, sugar, salt, seasoned salt, red pepper, garlic, bell pepper, onion and celery in a 4 quart stock pot. Cook, uncovered, over medium heat for 1 1/2 hours. Add sausage and cook for an additional 30 minutes or until beans are tender, adding more water if needed. Serve with white rice. For additional sausage, cut smoked sausage into links, pan fry and place on red beans and rice to serve. Serves 10-12.





Tunk's Cypress Inn

NSU alumni from Central Louisiana frequently visit a local favorite, Tunk's Cypress Inn. **Jimbo and Sandy Thiels**, 1973 graduates, are continuing a family business built by Sandy's father, former cattleman, E.A. "Tunk" Andries, Jr.

Tunk's laid-back atmosphere and beautiful Kincaid Lake scenery bring people back again and again. Many NSU graduates return every year for the annual alumni reception in November.

"Our hospitality, family atmosphere and friendly staff are important," said Jimbo Thiels. "We make sure to serve good, consistent, high quality foods."

Jimbo Thiels credits his college education for contributing to the development of those skills.

"The college experience is not so much curriculum, but the relationships you develop with the people around you," he said. "Communication skills make you a well-rounded person."

You can find out more about the history of Tunk's Cypress Inn as well as view photos and menus at www.tunkscypressinn.com.



Snapper Sandy from Tunk's Cypress Inn

Basic Cheese Sauce:

1 Tbs. butter

3 Tbs. flour

1/3 cup Half and Half

1/2 cup Velveeta® or cheddar cheese

Heat butter to 350°, add flour and whisk to blend. Stir until flour taste is gone but do not brown. Add Half and Half slowly while stirring. Cook a few minutes to get a smooth consistency. Blend in 1/2 cup shredded Velveeta® or other cheese. Set aside.

Butter and season two snapper fillets. Place skin side down in a paper bag. Place cooked crawfish tails, cooked shrimp, lump crabmeat on top of fillets. Spoon cream sauce over contents of bag. Sprinkle with a few chopped green onion tops. Close bag. Place on a metal pan and slide into preheated 400 ° oven. Cook for 20 minutes until fish is done. Cut away top of bag and serve.



Gerald Savoie's Restaurant

Gerald Savoie, 1977 graduate, had a slightly different business venture in mind when he came into the restaurant industry in 1982.

"My intention was to be a large seafood market with a small restaurant," he said. "But I ended up being a large restaurant with a small seafood market."

Savoie was one of the first people in North Louisiana to serve boiled crawfish. His main business focused on boiled seafood including crawfish, shrimp and crab. In his first year, he sold 50,000 pounds of crawfish. The next year he tripled his business. Now he sells between 300,000 to 400,000 pounds every year.

In 1983, Savoie and his partner branched out to catering and made it a separate business in 1990. He bought out his partner in 1998.

Savoie learned the restaurant lifestyle while playing football at Northwestern.

"In this business you have to work long hours," he said. "You have to be working while other people are out having fun, like on Friday nights. It was the same in sports. When everyone was having fun going to pep rallies, we had to meet curfew and be at home waiting for the game."

Savoie hosts an annual Shreveport alumni reception and is a contributor to NSU Athletics.

For information on Savoie's Catering and Gerald Savoie's Restaurant go to www.geraldsavoie.com.



Crawfish Etouffee from Savoie's Catering

1 bell pepper
1 onion
2 stalk of celery
2 lbs. crawfish tails
8 oz. cornstarch
1/2 lb. margarine
salt (to taste)
black pepper (to taste)
red pepper (to taste)
granulated garlic (to taste)

First chop vegetables and sauté in margarine. Next, add crawfish tails and rinse bag to get fat and flavor out. Add seasonings to taste and a quart of water. Bring to a boil. Using a pint of cold tap water, mix in cornstarch in separate container. Turn off heat and continue stirring continuously adding corn starch and water mixture until it's the consistency you desire, thin or thick. Process should take about 20-25 minutes and will feed between 6 to 8 guests.

Other NSU Alumni restaurant owners

Burgerbees
Natchitoches
Mike Hinds ('03)
burgerbees@cp-tel.net

Cotton Patch & Magees
Patio Café
Natchitoches
George and Conell ('61)
Celles

Crawfish Hole
Natchitoches
William Carnahan ('83)

Crawfish Hole 11
Minden
Lawrence "Bush" Carnahan ('84)

Dine for Two
Los Angeles
Ryan Glorioso ('03)
dine42.com

Dominic's Italian Restaurant
Natchitoches
Johnny ('68) and Merle ('79) Antoon

Dudley's
Longview, Texas
Dudley Lang ('74)

J & T's Crawfish Shak
Leesville
James Shapko ('91), Tony Shapko ('98) and Jason Shapko

Louisiana National Guard Food Service Program
Camp Beauregard
GW4 Paul Gilmore ('97)

Merci Beaucoup
Natchitoches
Johnny and Rose Cox & Johnny Cox ('93)

Natchitoches Meat Pie Company
Robeline
Donald Horton ('67) and Len McCain ('73)
natchitochesmeatpies.com

Nicky's Mexican Restaurant
Natchitoches
Casey Hendricks ('98) and Terry Wright

Papa's Bar and Grill
Mama's Oyster House
Natchitoches
Clay ('88) and Jana ('74) Maycaux

Spirits West
Leesville
Tony McDonald ('96)

Steamboat Warehouse
Washington
Frankie ('68) and Mary Elder
steamboatwarehouse.com

The Wooden Spoon
Bossier
Henry L. Burns ('70)

Tin House Bar-B-Que
Natchitoches
C.B. Morrison ('61)

University Club
Shreveport
Bobby Shields ('74)
u-clubshreveport.com

This is a small representation of the variety of restaurants owned by Northwestern alumni.

NSU enrollment sets record

Northwestern State University's enrollment increased by 154 students for the spring 2004 semester as a record 9,881 students registered for classes. Last spring's enrollment was 9,727.

The biggest increase in enrollment was at off campus sites and by electronic delivery. This semester, 1,728 students took classes at other sites compared to 1,560 last spring.

"The increase in enrollment is a positive sign for the university," said Northwestern president Dr. Randall J. Webb. "This shows our efforts to attract and retain better students are successful. Because of new admissions standards which take effect in the fall of 2005, we expect the period ahead to be challenging. But those challenges should make Northwestern a better university."

The university hosted its first Fulbright Scholar in Residence during the fall. Italian archeologist Dr. Vincenzo Di Giovanni was at NSU through December and will spend the spring at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Di Giovanni is co-director of New Archeology, a cooperative of professional archeologists who excavate sites in Campania, in south central Italy where Naples is the principal modern city.

"This prestigious opportunity was beneficial for our students and was a reflection on the quality of our academic programs," said Webb. "The recognition we received was valuable and will help us obtain similar opportunities in the future."

Northwestern was the first public college or university to receive 100 percent accreditation of eligible academic programs and each program continues to work to meet the highest standards, Webb said. Recently, the ROTC program at NSU was ranked among the top 10 percent in the nation in annual rankings by the U.S. Army Cadet Command.



The university rededicated two academic buildings, the Family and Consumer Sciences Building and Morrison Hall which is home of the Louisiana Scholars' College.

Morrison Hall, Louisiana Scholars' College

Webb said Northwestern's efforts to reach out to surrounding communities are helping the university. NSU's Small Business Development Center is having a positive impact on the area's economy. SBDC staff assisted entrepreneurs and small businesses in Central Louisiana secure more than \$22 million in capitalization during the past year.

"Part of Northwestern's mission is to play a role in this region's economic development," he said. "We want to use our experts to help area communities create new jobs and become more prosperous."

Northwestern hosted the first Louisiana Rural Economic Development Conference Feb. 9-11.

A long-awaited project should be completed this fall when construction is completed on the \$6.9 million Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center in the heart of the NSU campus. The Center should be a tremendous asset to Northwestern and should aid the university in attracting students.

Northwestern is also seeking capital outlay funds for the renovation of Williamson Hall and Caspari Hall which would provide the university with new uses for two important campus buildings.



Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center



Williamson Hall



Caspari Hall

NCAA gives 'fully certified' seal of approval to NSU athletic program

Northwestern State has received the highest possible rating, "fully certified," from the National Collegiate Athletic Association, affirming that Northwestern operates its athletic program in substantial conformity with operating principles adopted by the NCAA Division I membership.

The NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification made the announcement following an extensive yearlong "second cycle" review of Northwestern's athletic program. Certification is the NCAA's equivalent to academic accreditation, designed to ensure integrity in the institution's athletic program and to assist institutions in improving their athletic departments.

NCAA legislation mandating athletic certification was adopted in 1993. Northwestern received full certification in its initial review by the NCAA in May 1996.

"We're extremely proud that our athletic program once again has been fully certified. After experts from the NCAA thoroughly reviewed the yearlong self-study that was carefully prepared by a team of dedicated university personnel, this unconditional certification is the definitive seal of approval for the way we operate in athletics at Northwestern State University," said university president Dr. Randall J. Webb. "It reflects our continuing commitment to excellence and integrity in every aspect of our university community and goes hand-in-

hand with our 100 percent accreditation of our eligible academic programs."

Greg Burke, director of athletics at Northwestern since August of 1996, called the announcement "a proud achievement" for Northwestern's athletic program.

"This official approval by the NCAA represents a dedicated level of commitment by the University and the athletic department to have a program which enjoys a high level of success at the Division I level while also meeting and exceeding operating principles which are paramount to operating an athletic program in an efficient and productive manner," he said.

"Successfully completing the NCAA certification process reflects a high level of commitment by many individuals dating back to October of 2001 when the initial orientation meeting was held. The co-chairs — Dr. Patrice Moulton and Dr. Chris Maggio — along with the sub-committee chairs and members, as well as the staff, coaches, and student-athletes within the athletic department are all to be commended. Also noteworthy is the sincere level of interest and support the athletic program receives from the University administration on an ongoing basis."



Jason Tinsley to head UNCP men's basketball program



Jason Tinsley has been appointed head coach of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke men's basketball program. Tinsley was an assistant coach with NSU from 1996-1999. He graduated with a bachelor's in 1989 and with his master's in 1997.

Chris Roper Memorial Golf Tournament

In honor of the top golfer on the 1981 Northwestern State University Demon Squad, the 22nd Annual Chris Roper Memorial Golf Tournament is being held on Saturday, April 24 at the Robert W. Wilson Recreation Complex located on the campus of NSU.

Lunch will be served at 12 p.m. with tee off beginning at 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$45 per player and cart rental is \$7.50 per player. Participants may sign up individually or as a team.

Mulligans are \$2 and they are unlimited. Mulligans can be purchased in the Pro Shop prior to the tournament. Prizes will awarded for first, second and third place teams.

The tournament is a four-man scramble. Other events hosted include the Closest to the Hole contest and the Long Drive contest.

Roper was killed in a traffic accident over the Christmas holidays in 1982. He was a native of Camden, Arkansas and was a member of the Trans-American All Conference team placing ninth in the League Tournament.

For more information on the tournament, please call Hall Adams at (318) 357-3207 or email Cindy Davis at cindyd@nsula.edu.



Student athletes reach a new high in academic achievements

With 16 student-athletes carrying perfect 4.0 grade point averages,

Northwestern State had 135 competitors qualify for the fall semester honor roll by posting averages of 3.0 or better in their studies, reaching a new high in academic achievement for the athletic department.

One of those honor roll students, sophomore linebacker Paul Mefford, made 100 tackles this season while carrying a 3.91 grade point average in business administration. He was voted Southland Conference Student-Athlete of the Year on the SLC All-Academic Football Team chosen by coaches, academic advisors and sports information directors around the league.

Julie Lessiter, the academic advisor for athletics, said Mefford was among 30 Demon football players to make NSU's fall academic honor roll. The 135 student-athletes earning the distinction included 24 from the track and field program, 23 from the baseball team, 18 soccer student-athletes, 16 softball players and 10 women's basketball players.

Among the 16 student-athletes with perfect 4.0 averages last semester, five were track and field competitors: Jessica Craig, Dani Moss, Carrie Norton, Abby Salomon and Angel Villa. Three more — Magali Van Den Bergh, Alex Nieto and Camila Prado — are Lady Demon tennis players. Jill Lowe and Stacy Miller represented the women's soccer team in the elite group. Pitcher Casey Johnson of the baseball team also posted a 4.0 in the fall.

Also earning 4.0 averages were two volleyball players, Isabella Duarte and Cathy Herring, along with Nicole McGuirk and Lyndsey Gorski of the softball team and Josh Storrs from the football squad.

"We're extremely proud of the academic performance of our student-athletes, especially these 135 who have made the honor roll," said Lessiter. "To be a successful student-athlete at the Division I level, you've got to have self-discipline,

be highly motivated and have excellent time management skills. The challenges that every student faces academically represent the most important part, but only part, of the workload these young people encounter each and every day. They have practices, offseason workouts, road trips, games, and other responsibilities to handle in addition to their academics, and to see how hard they work at it is inspiring.

"I believe a large portion of our student-athletes come here with the right approach and I know that our coaches provide them with the motivation and the opportunity to succeed academically and to ultimately earn degrees," said Lessiter.

“Through the generosity of our supporters, we’ve been able to provide them with a top-flight study environment at the Johnnie Emmons Academic Center where we have computers and tutors and meeting rooms to provide assistance as necessary. Our faculty is extremely supportive of all students and works with the student-athletes to help them achieve the balance necessary to succeed in the classroom while competing in athletics.”

"It's a great environment for our players to prosper academically and that is demonstrated in the record number of people on the honor roll and in our continually growing list of graduates."

Two-time NCAA women's basketball assists queen La'Terrica Dobin, football All-Americans Roy Locks and Ahmad Willis, and minor league baseball players Tyler Durham, Carl Makowsky and Ricky Solis

were among 24 student-athletes receiving undergraduate degrees at Northwestern's Fall 2003 commencement exercises.

Also earning his diploma by completing classwork online was 1994 Southland Conference basketball "Player of the Year" Eric Kubel, who played professionally overseas since leaving campus.

Two of the student-athletes, soccer's Jill Lowe and distance runner Carrie Norton of the track and field team, ranked among the top 30 students in the record class of 826 graduates receiving degrees in December. Lowe and Norton each graduated magna cum laude with grade point averages

between 3.7 and 3.89 on a 4.0 scale.

On track to match that lofty accomplishment, Mefford was the SLC's only first-team Academic All-District VI selection, becoming one of 24 Division I linebackers to appear on the Academic All-America ballot this fall. The native of Kingwood, Texas, was the second-leading tackler for the nation's No. 9-ranked team in total defense. He also ranked among SLC leaders with 11.5 tackles for lost yardage and 3.5 quarterback sacks.

Mefford helped Northwestern reach the I-AA playoffs last season and were part of a team that was ranked as highly as No. 11 in the I-AA Top 25 during this year.

Mefford won the NSU athletic department's "Freshman Male Student-Athlete of the Year" award last year for having the highest grade point average by any male athlete. He is the recipient of the Charlie Tolar Memorial Scholarship for academic and athletic accomplishment.

Mefford was the only Division I-AA player elected to the Academic All-District VI team, which honored top scholar-athletes at Division I football programs in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. He joined players from LSU, Oklahoma, Texas, Oklahoma State, Arkansas, Ole Miss and Mississippi State, among others, on the first team.

Alumni Reunion



Thirty-three graduates, three faculty attended the College of Nursing 43rd year class reunion on September 20-21, 2003.

Nursing Reunion



Reunion committee for the College of Nursing 43rd year class reunion included (front row) Velda Wade Watson, Elaine Brouillette Pritchard, Amelia Pickett Weldon, Jackie Naylor Howard, (back row) Carolyn Barnett Warren, Carol Goldstein Allen Peters and Kay Bryant Allen.

Lafayette Recruiting Reception



NSU alumni Nick Darbonne ('02) Mark Deshotel ('99) and Chad Givens ('00 & '01) attended the Alumni Recruiting Reception in Lafayette.



Dickey ('90) and Valerie ('93) Marze hosted the Alumni Recruiting Reception in Lafayette this spring.

New Orleans Alumni Recruiting Reception



Edie Sirmon and Johnny Carmouche shared their love for Northwestern with prospective students during the New Orleans alumni and recruiting reception hosted by Carmouche.

Receptions



Dan ('57) and Lilly Chase opened their home for the annual alumni reception in Baton Rouge.

Baton Rouge Alumni Reception



Jason St. Germain ('03), Lindsey Wright Wilson ('01), Cory Wilson ('01), Richard Armstrong ('01) and Jourdan Raacke ('02) reunited during the Baton Rouge alumni reception this spring.



June Boucher ('42) and Pauline Jobe ('42) caught up with each other at the Baton Rouge alumni reception held at Mike Anderson's.



Kenny Guillot ('67) received the "N" Degree from President Randall Webb during the Baton Rouge alumni reception held at Mike Anderson's.



Baton Rouge alumni gathered at the home of Dan and Lilly Chase.

Covington Alumni Recruiting Reception



Ricky ('85) and Julie Messina ('89) Walmsley once again opened their home to prospective students in Covington.



Adam Bird ('94), Tommy Moore ('87) and Louis Robinett ('89) attended the alumni reception in conjunction with the Texas Music Educators Association conference.

Alumni Reception / Texas Music Educators Association Conference

Class of 1954

Fifty years after graduating from Northwestern, the Class of 1954 will gather at their alma mater to reminisce about the good times and good friendships bonded during their college career. They are getting ready to reunite with old friends and classmates for the Golden Jubilee to commemorate the 50-year mark of receiving their diploma on May 7.

Members of the class will enjoy lunch and a bus tour of the city and before the 3 p.m. commencement exercises where each member of the class of 1954 will again make the commencement walk to receive their 50-year diplomas.

On Saturday, members of the Class of 1954 will be inducted in the "50-Plus Club," as part of the group's annual luncheon. The luncheon will be held in the Friedman Student Union ballroom.

Cost for the entire weekend is \$25.00 per person or \$50.00 per couple.

For more information, contact the Alumni Center at 318-4414 or 1-888-799-6486 or by email at maggioc@nsula.edu

Missing 1954

Barnhill, Ada
Basco, Larry C.
Berlin, Rudy C.
Bush, Willard Dolford
Carter, Loriece
Cooper, Maxie Arrant
Cox, Daisy
Crow, Angie P.
Curran, Donna Allen
Daniel, Mary Kathryn
DeLoach, Lorelle Melton
Dupree, Lillias L.
Durham, Robert L.
Engelhardt, John W.
Fleming, Myron Jacob
Gallagher, Sam H.
Garrett, Doris Madalyn Brown
Guynes, Jocelyn Townsend
Guzman, Doris Simon
Hays, Elma B.
Hays, Polly
Hendrix, Eleanor B.
Honeycutt, Julia Marion
Hyams, Louis Fairriere, Jr.
Irby, Dorothy Willard
Jacobs, Helen Lois
Janet, Hansel
Juneau, Rodney L.
Kendrick, David Beard
Kimball, Beverly Vollman
Lampin, Ruby Othell
Lyle, Henry P.
Lyons, Patrick H., Jr.
Martin, Elmer Ray
Matthews, Clara H.
McGinty, Lennie Virl
McLain, Frances Emline
McWilliams, Ina Joan
Neal, Eillie Ruth

Norsworthy, Marjorie Ann
Olson, Norman W.
Parker, Ethel Tullios
Parker, Margaret Holmes
Parsons, Lona Claire
Perry, Helen May
Perry, Marie O. Mullins
Poole, Virginia C.
Pryor, Mabel F.
Pugh, Wilburn G.
Rogers, Billie Hatcher
Royston, Frances LaVerne
Santisteban, Elaine Holley
Schmidt, Peggy Jo Taylor
Schmidt, William Clayton
Sillavan, Dick
Simmons, Geraldine Faye
Singletary, Virginia Marjorie
Smith, Bessie Matthew
Smith, Gloria N.
Smith, Mary Lee Stewart
Snoddy, Marilyn L.
Stephens, Mildred Middleton
Stevens, Eunice
Sturdivant, Nancy Mae
Sutherlin, Robert J.
Toms, Doris M.
Tucker, Mary Elizabeth
Velez, Pedro A.
Vercher, Robert Adrian
Vidmar, Alice O.
Wetzel, Nihla Ann
Whitehead, Josie Mavis
Wiggins, H. Carlyle
Williams, Charles O.
Williams, Clifford Wilson
Williams, William Ray
Wood, Catherine Ann
Wright, Martha Louise

Strong belief in education keeps Chases giving back to Northwestern

To Lilly and Dan Chase, supporting Northwestern State University is their way of "trying to do a little good." The Chases recently made a donation of \$60,000 to the NSU Foundation to set up the Dan and Lilly Chase and daughters Marty Causey and Lisa Chase Endowed Professorship in the College of Education.

Dan Chase, who is from Baton Rouge, is a 1957 graduate of Northwestern. He lettered in football at Northwestern. Dan Chase has served as a member of the NSU Foundation Board of Directors and is a member of the NSU President's Council and the Select 100. The Chases have also supported the university by frequently hosting alumni meetings and other Northwestern recruitment events at their home.

"I love Northwestern. It gave me a great education," said Dan Chase, a retired educator, who is now chairman and chief executive officer of Dan Chase Taxidermy Supply Co. Inc. "The university helped give me a good philosophy of life and it was there that I met my wife Lilly, who I have been married to for 48 years."

The donation will be matched with \$40,000 from the Board of Regents' Support Fund to create a \$100,000 endowed professorship. Interest generated by the endowment will fund faculty research and development along with needed equipment.

"I decided that Northwestern needs help in the academic field and money plays a part in that," said Chase. "This will help faculty get materials, travel and do research. Publishing papers takes money."

Chase has two daughters who are currently in graduate school working toward master's degrees in education. Both started college as non-traditional students.

"I believe in education," said Chase. "I know that somewhere down the line, this professorship will help someone in the field."

Several years ago, Chase made a \$100,000 donation to the NSU Athletic Association to set up a fully endowed scholarship for a student-athlete in any sport at Northwestern.

"When I was in college, I had an athletic scholarship that covered all my costs. I never thought about money," he said. "I thought it would be good to 'pay back' my scholarship."

The endowed professorship will be the third created in NSU's College of Education.



Dan and Lilly Chase presented Northwestern State University Alumni Association with \$60,000 for a professorship in education. Pictured with the Chases are Director of Alumni and Development Chris Maggio and Professor Lorna Gifford, College of Education.



NSU's Capital Campaign ready to kickoff

This spring marks the public phase of Northwestern State University's first capital campaign. This event will be celebrated with an Inauguration hosted by President and Mrs. Randall J. Webb and the NSU Office of Alumni and Development on Saturday, May 15 at the NSU President's Residence.

"This is the kickoff of the public phase of our first ever capital campaign," said Director of Development and Alumni Affairs Chris Maggio. "We have already raised over \$12 million of our \$18.84 million dollar goal. The focus of our fundraising is to help endow chairs, professorships and scholarships."

The proceeds of the Inauguration will establish an endowed scholarship. Cost of the coat and tie event is \$60 per person. For more information contact Kelly Kay at (318) 357-4248 or kayk@nsula.edu.

Alumni Set Up Endowed Professorship in Math

Ellis Coutee and his wife, Melva Juanita Martinez Coutee are strong believers in giving back to their alma mater, Northwestern State University.

The Coutees of Baton Rouge have established two endowed scholarships and have continued their generosity with a gift to the NSU Foundation to set up the Ellis Coutee and Melva Juanita Martinez Coutee Endowed Professorship in Mathematics. The professorship will be set up over three years with gifts from the Coutees and matching gifts from the ExxonMobil Foundation. The \$60,000 gift will be matched with \$40,000 from the Board of Regents Support Fund to create a \$100,000 endowed professorship. This endowed

professorship will be the 23rd at NSU and the first in mathematics.

"We hope this action will whet the appetite of other alumni and cause them to take a second look at their capability of giving," said Ellis Coutee. "We hope the students and faculty in mathematics can



Ellis ('60) and Juanita ('58 & '60) Coutee were recognized for their generosity by President Randall Webb during the Baton Rouge alumni reception.

benefit from this professorship. Northwestern gave each of us what we needed when we needed it. Northwestern was the springboard to success."

A portion of the interest generated by the endowment each year will be used to fund classroom instruction, faculty research, purchase needed software and hardware and cover needed travel to professional conferences. The remaining portion will be used to build up the endowment.

"The Department of Mathematics is honored and delighted by the generosity of Ellis and Melva Coutee," said Dr. Frank Serio, head of the Department of Mathematics. "This first endowed professorship in mathematics will strengthen our program through expanded research and travel opportunities. Since faculty-student collaboration is an integral part of our mathematics curriculum, this gift will also enhance the educational experience of all our students."

Ellis and Melva Juanita Martinez Coutee are both Northwestern alumni. Ellis Coutee, a 1960 graduate in accounting, is a native of Alexandria. While a student, he was a member of the honorary business fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, the Newman Club and was on the Interfraternity Council for two years. Ellis Coutee is a former senior revenue agent and life insurance specialist with the U.S. Department of the Treasury. He is in the consulting business with Coutee and Coutee Tax Consultants.

Profile



After winning re-election last fall, State Rep. Joe Salter knew he would be busy for the next four years. He had no idea about the challenges that would face him.

Salter, a 1965 graduate of Northwestern in education, was chosen by his colleagues to serve as Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives in January. As speaker, Salter's duties include overseeing operations of the 105-member Louisiana House of Representatives, making committee assignments, presiding over the House and serving on various boards and committees.

Salter admits he was surprised when newly elected Gov. Kathleen Blanco contacted him as he was returning from a conference in South Carolina and asked him to seek the position.

"I had never given any thought to being speaker," said Salter, who is from Florien. "After talking with my family and praying about it, I told her I would toss my hat in the ring."

An educator for 33 years, Salter has been a member of the Legislature since 1986. He also received a master's at Northwestern in education and did additional postgraduate work. His wife, the former Bettye Lilly, is a 1965 graduate of Northwestern in education. She is a retired teacher.

Salter represents Sabine and Red River parishes along with part of DeSoto and Vernon parishes. In his opinion, his past experiences and service in the House will help him be an effective leader.

"I have been working with the public all of my life, so I have had experience at working to bring people together to reach a consensus," said Salter. "It is easier to get things accomplished when people work together. I have always tried to work

hard and convince people to do their jobs and do the right thing."

Salter knows that reaching a consensus on some important issues will be difficult when dealing a diverse group of elected officials from a variety of backgrounds with different political philosophies.

"I have always tried to treat people fairly and be tolerant of the opinions of others," he said. "I know people have differing opinions and have respected those. It's good that the Legislature isn't organized along party lines, so legislators with good ideas are heard."

Since being elected as speaker, Salter spends more time doing media interviews and his comments carry extra weight. He has also been the subject of positive stories in newspapers around Louisiana.

"I guess I am not really conscious of that," said Salter. "It has been good to read some of the nice things people have said about me."

Making the decision to attend Northwestern was easy for Salter, who grew up in Sabine Parish.

"It was close to home and most of my friends were attending Northwestern," said Salter, who was a member of Blue Key while an undergraduate. "Going to Northwestern was a great experience for me. I met a lot of great people and had some wonderful instructors, who prepared me to go into the field of education."

"Northwestern wasn't too large and the classes weren't too large. The instructors had a connection with the students. They took time to get to know anybody."

Salter was a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent in the Sabine Parish school system.

Because of term limits, Salter is in his last term in the House. He plans to work with Blanco to improve education and health care and develop new jobs. NSU isn't in Salter's district, but he knows how important the university is to north and central Louisiana.

"Northwestern has been a big help to me," he said. "It has been very important to Natchitoches and the surrounding parishes."

"The university has not been getting its fair share. Because of Northwestern's growth, it is not where it needs to be compared to other institutions. I am going to take every opportunity to voice my concerns and continue to support Northwestern."

1937

Ora Dell Frazier Zubrod is retired and lives in Houston.

1950

Betsy Nina Smith Morris is retired and lives in Green Bay, Wis.

Audrey Smith Maxwell is retired and lives in Jena.

1952

H. Philip Pfof is a retired faculty member from the University of South Florida, married and lives in Wesley Chapel, Fla.

1954

MaryAnn Cronin Stephenson is retired, married and lives in Overland Park, Kan.

1959

Roger Ray Moore is retired, married and lives in Phenix City, Ala.

Leslie L. Lott retired from Boeing Company as a procurement agent and lives in Mansfield.

1961

Curtis Joseph Paul is retired, married and lives in Alexandria.

1964

Wilton Edward Hearnon retired from Caddo Parish School Board as executive director and is currently superintendent of Calvary Baptist Academy. He is married to Lucy Hearnon ('63) and lives in Shreveport.

1967

Francisco H. "Pancho" Perez is general counsel for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, married and lives in Baton Rouge.

Ronald P. Roan is a retired AVP and trust officer from Hibernia National Bank. He is married to Kathy J. Gaddis Roan ('67) and lives in Lake Charles.

1970

Bradley John Manuel is a visiting associate clinical professor at Texas Women's University College of Nursing, Houston Center.

Dr. Barbara Coatney, former department head of family and consumer sciences was awarded Professor Emeritus Status, is married and lives in Lake Charles.

1971

Larry W. McKenzie is the owner of McKenzie's Embroidery, Inc., married and lives in Monroe.

Sherry Lynn Strickland Stewart is a biology instructor at Navarro College. She is married and lives in Corsicana, Texas.

Carol Ann Chaney Keys is a technical assistant at NAPCA at EPA in Corvallis, Ore. and lives in Albany, Ore.

1972

Charles Kelley is a self-employed contractor and lives in Pineville.

1974

Carol J. Repulski Dahle is the director of choral activities at Hudson Middle School, married and lives in Hudson, Wis.

Stephen Wells is a musician and lives in Natchitoches.

1976

Ryan Wallis is employed by Abbott, Simses & Kuchler as a lawyer and lives in New Orleans.

James Gibbs is employed by the Louisiana State police in communications, married and lives in Leesville.

1977

Michael Wayne Cooper is the executive director of Cedar Lake Bible Conference Center, married and lives in Cedar Lake, Ind.

1978

Donna M. Kirkland Reed is a chemistry teacher at Pineville High School, married and lives in Deville.

1979

Amie Clifford is the assistant director of national programs for the National College of District Attorneys and lives in Columbia, S.C.

Terry M. Ruddell is the operations manager for Baxter Sales and Chem. Station, married to Becky Guidry ('79) and lives in Longview, Texas.

1980

Robbie B. Lee Williams is employed by the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals Office of Mental health as a mental health specialist, married and lives in Minden.

1981

Donna Lynn Elliot is employed by the United States Army as a Lt. Army Nurse Corps, married and lives in Upper Marlboro, Md.

1982

Jesus Rodriguez is the export manager for Los Angeles Supply and lives in Miramar, Fla.

Peggy Fitt is a kinesiology instructor at Wharton County Junior College and lives in Sugarland, Texas.

1983

Haywood Joiner is the chairman of the Allied Health Sciences Department at LSUA, married and lives in Boyce.

1984

Kerry Colleen Hopes Peterson is a pediatric nurse practitioner for BCA Medical Associates, married and lives in Roswell, N.M.

1985

Kathryn Jenney Lesko recently garnered four awards, two on the state level and two on the national level in marketing excellence competitions. She is the director of public relations at Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville, N.J.

Mandy Jones is employed by Beaumont Independent School District as a teacher and lives in Beaumont, Texas.

Renee Richard is a history teacher at McGill Toolen Catholic High School and lives in Mobile, Ala.

1988

Kenneth Campbell is the minister of music at Gonzalez Baptist Church, married and lives in Gonzalez, Fla.

Daniel Anderson is a sales representative for Bearing Service Supply Inc., married and lives in Bossier City.

Dr. Caprice Brown Ieyoub is employed at Ieyoub & Wyble & LLC as an attorney mediator, married and lives in Baton Rouge.

1989

Toni Angela Distefano Stroud is a homemaker, married to Michael "Mickey" Stroud ('87) and lives in Dallas, Texas.

Jeffrey Zeringue is the executive editor for the Daily Comet, married to Mary Kay McClung Zeringue ('85) and lives in Schriever.

1990

Tim Keeley is a district manager for Sherwin Williams and lives in Greensboro, N.C.

Brad Ferguson is the broker and owner of Brad Ferguson Real Estate and Ferguson Ventures. He is married to Amelia Warren Ferguson ('95) and lives in Natchitoches.

1991

Tricia Benny Castille is a production specialist for Rhodia and lives in Baton Rouge.

Joe M. Brister is a component lab supervisor for American Red Cross and lives in St. Louis, Mo.

Sandi Polk Morris is employed by Hawaii Management Alliance in investigations and lives in Wahiawa, Hawaii.

William P. Johnson is a waterfowl biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, married and lives in Canyon, Texas.

1992

Melinda Rathburn is a laboratory assistant at Willis Knighton Medical Center and lives in Haughton.

1993

Lawrence Earl Johnson is a dealer support manager for Nissan North America, married and lives in Flower Mound, Texas.

Estelle Gravois Murr is the chairman of the dance department at Joshua High School, married and lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

Tina Foret Bonstaff is a marketing manager for Ericksen, Krentel & LaPort LLP, and co-owner of Mike Bonstaff Academy of Tae Kwon do. She is married and lives in Metairie.

Harlan Dickson Hughes is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley and lives in Shreveport.

Brad Sievers is the owner of Sievers Holdings Inc., married to Brandie St. Pierre ('95) and lives in Rayne.

1994

Paul Saunders is the owner of Texas Warehouse Furnishings, and lives in Dallas.

Rebecca Hall Hayes is a computer teacher at West Wilson Middle School, married to Mark Hayes and lives in Mount Juliet, Tenn.

Richard Allen Brown is a registered nurse at LSUHSC, married and lives in Bossier City.

Stephanie Annette Richardson Sandwell is a teacher at Harlingen High School, married and lives in Harlingen, Texas.

Profile



Gail Stephenson, administrative general counsel for the First Circuit Court of Appeal in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and 1976 NSU graduate, has been named the new director of legal writing at the Southern University Law Center.

Stephenson, who has been an adjunct instructor in the law center's legal writing lab since January of 2003, began the new position in March. She is also on tenure track as an assistant professor of law.

Stephenson is director-at-large with the Baton Rouge Bar Association, a member of the association's Publication Committee, and a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's editorial board of the

Louisiana Bar Journal. Her column "Gail's Grammar," has been a major feature in the Baton Rouge Bar magazine, *Around the Bar*, since 1994.

"At Northwestern I blossomed from a shy country girl into a confident young woman," said Stephenson. "The liberal arts education I received at NSU allowed me to compete on an equal footing with graduates of other universities, both public and private, in law school. My professors in political science, English, and philosophy all required term papers in their classes, which was excellent training for all the writing lawyers have to do."

The Campti native is a 1984 graduate of the LSU Paul Hebert Law Center, where she was Order of the Coif and member of the *Louisiana Law Review*. She was inducted into the LSU Law Center Hall of Fame in 1987. She taught appellate advocacy as an adjunct instructor from 1997-2001 at LSU.

One of Stephenson's favorite memories is about an activity that changed her life.

"I'll always be grateful to Coach Howell for requiring his Health 102 students to pair up and collect for the Arthritis Foundation in lieu of taking a final exam in the fall semester of 1973.

Joe Stephenson and I collected for the Arthritis Foundation together, dated for the next three years, and on January 8 of this year we celebrated our 27th wedding anniversary."

Joe Stephenson is a 1975 graduate.

Gavin Vitter is employed by Lewisville Independent School District as an assistant band director and lives in Lewisville, Texas.

Brandi Raquel Brumley Skains is a homemaker, married and lives in Cypress, Texas.

Melissa K. Randall is an actress, married and lives in Glendale, Calif.

1997

Rebecca Eileen Sylvester Funderburk is a third grade teacher and lives in Opelika, Ala.

James "Jimmy" Robert Miller is a medical representative for Athlon Pharmaceuticals, married and lives in Round Rock, Texas.

Theresa Ann Guillory Seaton is a sales representative for Russell Stover Candies, married and lives in Pineville.

April Dawn Wilson Allen is a homemaker, volunteer children's music director at church and collegiate coordinator for Tri Sigma in the southeast area, is married and lives in Mansfield.

1999

Chad H. Mills is the minister of students at Eastwood Baptist Church, married to Angela Pine-Mills ('00) and lives in Haughton.

David Michael Toledo is an associate minister of music at First Baptist Church and lives in Keller, Texas.

David Deggs is an education program coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Education and lives in Baton Rouge

Kenny Watts is a computer programmer for Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance, married and lives in Baton Rouge.

Julie Christine Bedard Burns is a special events manager for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, married and lives in Haughton.

Robert Dale Landstad is a marketing director for Delta Medical Consulting, married to Annie James Landstad ('95) and lives in Corinth, Texas.

Casey Shawn Williams is a doctoral student at Texas State University department of Aquatic biology, married to Carla J. Hassan Williams ('99) and lives in San Marcos, Texas.

Sheila Edwards Long is the owner and director of Sheila Daycare Preschool, married and lives in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

1995

Leighton M. Colbert is a United States probation officer for U.S. District Court, married and lives in Florissant, Mo.

Kimberly Jean Horton Rich is a registered nurse at Willis Knighton Pierremont Hospital, married and lives in Bossier City.

Robert Macfarlane Bishop is the general manager for Berthelot's on the River, married to Alana Lynn Mack Bishop ('94) and lives in Port Vincent.

David A. Goldsmith is employed by Vivid Entertainment as an actor, married and lives in Shreveport.

1996

Kevin Jones is an applications engineer for Crestron Electronics, married and lives in Lewisville, Texas.

Kelle P. Hinson Lyles is a law clerk for the Ninth Judicial District Court, married and lives in Bunkie.

Dale Newton Montgomery is employed by Bossier Parish District Attorney's Office and Cook Law Firm as an attorney, married and lives in Bossier City.

Tammy Blankenship Curry is an operator at International Paper Company in Mansfield, married and lives in Pleasant Hill.

Sharon Swains O'Neal is the owner of Best and Swains Insurance Agency, married and lives in Alexandria.

Brad Thomas Thibodaux is an account executive and morning show host for Guaranty Broadcasting of Houma Radio, married and lives in Houma.

2000

Branden Johnson is employed by Sabine Valley Carpenter as an MH Professional. He is married to Tabitha Johnigan Johnson ('01) and lives in Longview, Texas.

Jody A. Gowdy Weierholt is a homemaker, married to Peder Weierholt ('02), an army lieutenant, and lives in Fort Riley, Kan.

Christopher Pinder is a recycle & recovery technician for Weyerhaeuser Industries, married to Roxie Thompson Pinder ('02) and lives in Montgomery.

John D. Foster is a claims specialist for A.I.G., married and lives in Baton Rouge.

Kelly Louise Horton Dunn is an adaptive P.E. teacher for Red River Parish School Board, married, and lives in Natchitoches.

2001

Katie Summerell Bernard is the sales manager for Cypress Bend Golf Resort Conference Center, married and lives in Natchitoches.

Amy Marie Slayter Hale is a mathematics instructor at LSU at Alexandria, married and lives in Pineville.

Robert Lee Browning is a percussionist for the U.S. Air Force Band of the West and lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Laura Catherine West is an instructor of the arts at Dansaton Dance Center and lives in Lynnwood, Wash.

Mary F. Gates Guin is a medical social worker at Kennewick General Hospital, married to Jerrod Cane Guin ('02) and lives in Richland, Wash.

Pamela Dorris Freeman is a medical technologist in microbiology at Christus St. Francis Cabrini Hospital, married to Garrett Steven Freeman ('00) and lives in Otis.

David D. Morgan Jr. is a regional vice president for Association Member Benefits Advisors, married to Leslie Kaylo Morgan ('01) and lives in Michigan.

Leslie Kaylo Morgan is a sixth grade teacher married to David D. Morgan Jr. ('01) They are expecting their first child in late August.

2002

Chris Rondeau is an instructor at Bossier Parish Community College and lives in Plain Dealing.

Shannon Carol Williams Cox is a project coordinator at Louisiana Technical College in Natchitoches, married and lives in Natchitoches.

2003

Cecil Sprague III is employed by Halliburton as an accountant and is currently working in Iraq.

Jamie Marie Frasier is a graduate assistant at the University of Arkansas and lives in Fayetteville, Ark.

Jeremiah Hunter Newsom is a first year student at LSU Health Science Center, married to Marion Yelverton Newsom ('03) and lives in Shreveport.

Mindy Cole Mixon Hinderberger is a recruitment specialist for Clinical One, married and lives in Austin, Texas.

In Memory



'35 Frances Carroll Hagler, February 5, 2004, Logansport

'35 Mack Buddy Maxwell, Sr. Bossier City

'38 James Earl Hilborn, Shreveport

'42 Elizabeth Burford Dady Pabody, January 1, 2004, Shreveport

'48 Frank M. Lampkin, Bossier City

'50 Patsy Powell Graves, Gulfport, Miss.

'52 Richard Lewis Carly, September 20, 2003, Zimmerman

'63 James R. Machen, November 1, 2003, Winnfield

'89 Carla Beth Lofton Keeley

Patsy Barnes, October 23, 2003, Metairie

David Vernon Dupree, January 15, 2004, Baton Rouge

Carrie Lee Christian, January 19, 2004, Shreveport

Chlotilde Onie Brown Ordoyne, December 22, 2003, Ponchatoula

Wiley L. Osborne, January 16, 2004, Clairmont, Calif.

Corrie V. Perry, February 7, 2004, Shreveport

Mary Janet Ray Shockley, December 10, 2003, Vivian

Ralph M. Young, December 6, 2003, Houston, Texas

Mary Esther Roberson, former associate professor of home economics passed away on November 24, 2003. Miss Roberson served on the home economics faculty from 1951 until her retirement in 1975. She taught clothing and textiles and sponsored the Euthenics Club. She was a charter member of Beta Kappa Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She made her home in Arcadia after retiring from NSU.

Riley (R.J.) Stoker, past president of the NSU Alumni Association passed away on January 8, 2004. Stoker was a 1932 graduate of Northwestern. He was a principle in Sabine Parish before becoming state director of school food services and commodity distribution for the state of Louisiana. He was inducted into both the Northwestern State University Athletic Hall of Fame and the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Coaches' Hall of Fame.

LOOKING BACK

Softball celebrates 25 years

Northwestern State University's softball team has reached a milestone in its history. The team celebrates its 25th year anniversary this season, taking time to reflect on teams from the past and look ahead to teams of the future.

In 1979, head coach Pam Carey went 10-14 with the first ever softball team at NSU. Back then, the team played at Highland Park on Texas Street. These days, the softball team calls the Demon Diamond home. The current softball park is a 1,000 seat facility that has gone through major renovations over the past year and will continue to change until it is one of the best facilities in the Southern Conference.

Carey stayed with the Lady Demons for a year and was followed by Debra Pheil in 1980, whose team record was 11-15. In 1981, James Smith began coaching the team where he accomplished a winning season streak for three years. Coach Smith still remains on NSU's athletic staff and serves as head coach of the Lady Demon basketball team.

"When I coached, kids played two or three sports, now it's more specialized," said Smith. "I was lucky to find someone who pitched fast, now they have four or five strong pitchers on the roster."

Another six years went by before the softball team would win another Southland Conference title. In 1998, Gay McNutt's team captured the SLC Championship and competed in the NCAA Softball Tournament. McNutt would go on to win the SLC Championship in 1999 and 2000. For the first time in history, the NSU softball team was 3-peat champs.



Members of the 2000 Southland Conference Championship softball team.



Rickey McCalister

The NSU softball team won their first Southland Conference Championship in 1991 under Rickey McCalister. The team's overall record in the Southland Conference was 18-5. Players Rhonda Rube and Ginger Craig were named 1991 NCAA All-Americans, one of the greatest honors a college athlete can accomplish. The university has since retired both of the women's jerseys.

Ty Singleton coached the Lady Demons for the 2001 and 2002 seasons. His team picked up another SLC Championship and appeared at the NCAA tournament.

In 2003, Eileen Schmidt took over the role as head coach where she hopes to return the girls to a championship season.

"There's a rich tradition of strong softball here at Northwestern and I'm hoping to continue that throughout the Southland Conference and the region," said Schmidt.

The first weekend in April, the softball team will host a 25-year reunion inviting past players and coaches who participated in the program.

Guess Who?

Can you guess the names of the 1953-1954 Student Council officers? If so, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (318) 357-4414 or (888) 799-6486. The first five people to call with the correct answers will win a prize!



Alumni Information Update

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Class Notes" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date _____ SSN: _____

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.) _____
Please Circle Last First Middle Maiden

Current address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

NSU undergraduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

NSU graduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

During which years did you attend NSU? _____

Which organizations were you involved in while a student at NSU? _____

Place of employment _____

Job title: _____ Work phone: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, what degree(s) did he / she earn?

Spouse's undergraduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Spouse's graduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students? Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497

If you would like information from Admissions, Financial Aid or the NSU Athletic Association, you can contact them at the following address:

Director of Admissions
Northwestern
State University
Room 103, Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-4503
800-426-3754 (Louisiana)
800-327-1903 (out of state)

Director of Financial Aid
Northwestern
State University
Room 109, Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5961

Athletic Director
Northwestern
State University
Room 101C
Athletic Fieldhouse
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5251



Thurman Baptiste ('72), Bill Stewart ('60), Mickey Crnkovic ('58), Joan Darbonne Thornton ('81) and Tracy Taylor Langston ('84) were inducted in the Graduate N Club Hall of Fame at the Fifth Annual Basketball Homecoming Celebration on Feb. 21 at Prather Coliseum.

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